

changeover means for changing over an image forming condition of said image forming means on the basis of an accumulation of the drive time counted by said counting means,

wherein when the accumulation of the drive time counted by said counting means reaches a predetermined value, said changeover means determines a changeover timing so that the image forming condition may be changed over at a timing which is not during image formation.

2/ 9. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~8~~¹, wherein the process cartridge is provided with a non-volatile memory medium for storing a count value of said counting means.

3/ 10. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~9~~², wherein the non-volatile memory medium is a ferromagnetic memory or a ferroelectric memory.

4/ 11. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~8~~¹, wherein said changeover means changes over the image forming condition at a timing when said image forming means does not perform an electrophotographic process.

5/ 12. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~8~~¹, wherein during execution of a job for forming a plurality of images, said changeover means changes over the image forming condition after completion of the job.

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13. (New) A control method for an image forming apparatus equipped with a process cartridge detachable therefrom, the process cartridge including an element relating to image formation, said control method comprising:
a step of counting a drive time of the process cartridge driven in the image forming apparatus;
a step of judging whether an accumulation of the drive time counted in said counting step reaches a predetermined value; and
a step of changing over an image forming condition of the image forming apparatus at a timing when the image forming apparatus is not conducting image formation, when it is judged in said judging step that the accumulation of the drive time reaches the predetermined value.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 12, 2002 (Paper No. 3). Claims 8 to 13 are currently in the application, with Claims 1 to 7 having been canceled and Claims 8 to 13 having been added herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The title of the invention and the Abstract were objected to in the Office Action. In response, Applicant has provided a new title and Abstract, as set forth above.

A Request For Approval Of Drawing Change accompanies this amendment, in which a drawing change to modify Figure 9 to include the label "PRIOR ART" is proposed. Approval of the drawing change is respectfully requested.

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